

LaShana D. Boose

Candidate for Rochester City Council

Northwest District

- Name one issue on which you disagree with the current administration and why.

I believe Councilwoman Molly Clifford and I share the same love for the Northwest community. She has made an effort to be seen as an independent voice. What we need is a voice that echoes everyday concerns of all the people. The ideas I bring are rooted in my neighbors' concerns, and when I make decisions, it is their voice that I will consider each and every time; so that all members of the community continue moving forward and progressing. I respect the Mayor and the work she has done to bridge social and economic gaps in our City, but it doesn't mean that we will always agree on initiatives or methods to address common goals. My idea of leadership, when I am elected, is to always seek a common understanding that (as members of City Council) we are here to make decisions that will bring Rochester to new heights and will benefit residents in the City of Rochester regardless of the area or neighborhood where we live.

- What is the most important issue facing your district, and what is a specific proposal or action you propose to address it?

Many neighbors have shared with me their concerns about keeping jobs in this community. This community has expressed the need to create an economic foundation for the Northwest that can help absorb the negative economic impact still being felt with jobs that were lost, for example, from Kodak in the past. The reduction of poverty and the maintenance of safer neighborhoods are other important themes I hear during conversations and campaign stops with our neighbors. The Northwest quadrant that I am running to

represent on City Council is a vibrant and geographically large community. From Edgerton, to Driving Park, from Charlotte to Maplewood, I intend to represent all residents, working in collaboration with the various Community Associations, Neighborhood Associations, Block Clubs that have organized to represent their neighborhoods and their families' best interests. I commit to work and to represent them all before our city's government and agencies. The members of these neighborhood organizations care and want to be accountable for the social and economic development of the areas where they live and have raised their families. I pledge to be a partner and participant in their efforts if I am fortunate to have their support and vote in the upcoming primary election.

- Please identify one area in the city budget where you think the city should commit more resources than is currently proposed and why.

Housing availability and improvements of existing properties always help to raise the standard of living for a neighborhood and results in increased property values. As a city we need to continue taking advantage of federal and state governments programs to harness availability of affordable housing. In addition, private/public partnerships in the area of housing should continue to be carefully explored to address the needs of city residents without becoming burdensome to municipal funds. I would support additional resources and welcome ideas aiming to assist homeowners with financing for home repairs for qualified homeowners. The purchase of a home is an investment that must be protected. Allowing residents the opportunity to maintain and improve their properties and facilitating that goal will be an action to benefit a particular family or home owner and the community at large.

- What policies would you pursue to address housing affordability, evictions and/or landlord-tenant relations in your district?

Being a member of the City of Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals, I have been able to participate in the process of studying neighborhoods and using the zoning code to recommend or grant variances for local affordable housing projects. We need to continue working toward a goal of expanding opportunities for safe and affordable housing in the city. Responsible landlords must be encouraged and supported to address the need for decent rental housing availability in the city.

- Will you vote for the Police Accountability Board as proposed in November – why or why not?

Yes, Police Accountability is an important step that will enhance safety and security in our city for all. Maintaining open lines of communication between residents, city government and law enforcement is an important value and measure I support to keep our community strong and vibrant.

- Do you support Mayor Warren's push for a referendum calling for removal of the elected school board in favor of a state takeover of RCSD/appointed board, and why?

As a mother of three children, it is my belief that no one is better equipped to decide the future of our children than the parents of RCSD. The fact is that generations of students have been failed by the current leadership model and a complete reset of the system is needed to generate real change. However, putting the decision in the hands of parents and community stakeholders is the best chance to provide our children with what they deserve: a quality education. The result of the referendum will be a reflection of what the community believes is best for our children and the first step to engaging parents to be a true partner in creating a solid educational foundation for our future generations.

- What current policy or practice of city government would you seek to change if (re)elected, and why?

I would increase the budget allocations to Youth and Recreation Services. Our adolescents and children in general, throughout this city are our most valuable resource now and projecting into the future. They should not be regarded nor treated as problems. We should invest our resources and time in them. Our actions will signal to them that they are part of the greater Rochester community and they need to hear from all of us (whether public servants, family members, neighbors and from those yet to meet) that they also have a responsibility to grow, learn , work and contribute. With the proper resources and adult support and guidance we can help develop their capabilities and possibilities.